4th September 1928]

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government are aware that a fire occurred in Tiruvannamalai town on 8th January 1928 and that about 130 houses were destroyed. The value of the property lost has not been reported. The Government are not aware of any other fire in Tiruvannamalai division since January last.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Collector of North Arcot sanctioned the free grant of building materials to the value of Rs. 978-8-0 to the persons affected by the fire which broke out on 8th January 1928.

Forest Panchayats

Improvement of the supply of avaram bark.

* 101 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the forest panchayats have agreed to improve the supply of avaram bark;

(*b*) the steps taken by them to carry out their promise together with the cost they have incurred or are likely to incur thereby; and

(*c*) whether the Government have guaranteed to the panchayats to make good any loss they may incur as the result of their undertaking to improve the supply of avaram bark?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have not the information and have called for a report.

General

Constitution of a separate Andhra province.

* 102 *Q.*—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any further steps have been taken by the Government of Madras in the matter of the constitution of a separate Andhra province beyond sending up to the Government of India the discussion in the Council;

(*b*) whether the Government of India have held any correspondence with the Government of Madras on this question since February 1928; and

(*c*) if so, what the correspondence is?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) & (*c*) The answer to clause (*b*) is in the negative.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether he is prepared once more to communicate with the Government of India and let this House know what has taken place with regard to the resolution of this House?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"In regard to what, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"Whether the Government of India has the matter under consideration, whether they have disposed it of, and, if they have disposed it of, in what manner?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"No, Sir. The answer to the question is there."